



A large, stylized black and white graphic of the word 'ZU'. The letters are bold and have a hand-drawn, expressive feel.



-Princess Leandra-



**Editor**

**Chuck Melville**



WHERE IS MY  
FATHER, YOU  
DEVIL??

ZU 1 (ISSN 1079-1426) January, 1995. Published by MU PRESS, 5014-D Roosevelt Way NE, Seattle, WA 98105. "Leandra: Sin And Salvation" ©1994 Jay Shell. All rights reserved. No material herein may be copied or reproduced in any manner whatsoever without prior consent of the creator (excepting purposes of review). This is a work of fiction. Any similarity between names, characters, and/or persons herein and any persons living or dead is purely coincidental. And we're off to a lion start! First Printing.

MU Pubs #238

Welcome back — to the first issue of **ZU**, the new anthropomorphic anthology from MU Press!

That's right. We said, "Welcome back"! A couple of years back MU published a one-shot version of **ZU** that was giant-sized and priced accordingly, and featured a large number of talented 'morph creators, such as Tracy Kazaleh, Tom Staszer, Terrie Smith, and the late Deal Whitley. The book was popular enough among the fans and eventually sold out. Now that we've had a chance to look things over more carefully and make appropriate plans, we decided to bring **ZU** back as a regular bi-monthly series!

(For those who want to avoid numbering confusions in their collections, consider the original **ZU** as having been our zero issue.)

Starting off this new series is a full-length original story by Jay Shell, called Leandra: Sin And Salvation. The story has run previously in the **ROWRBRAZZLE** APA (Amateur Press Association) and in **YARF!**, but Jay has added a few new pages and a painted cover to make the story complete. Rather than break this tale into two parts, we decided to run it in its entirety for **ZU**'s premiere. Hereafter, each issue will feature at least two stories each issue, and will spotlight at least one ongoing serial.

In the future we will feature several talented people, old favorites and newcomers, who'll be bringing life to their own visions of anthropomorphic fantasy. The tales will run the gamut from science-fiction to romance, from whimsy to slapstick, and from adventure to satire. And don't be surprised if you see an occasional visit from other MU titles from time to time!

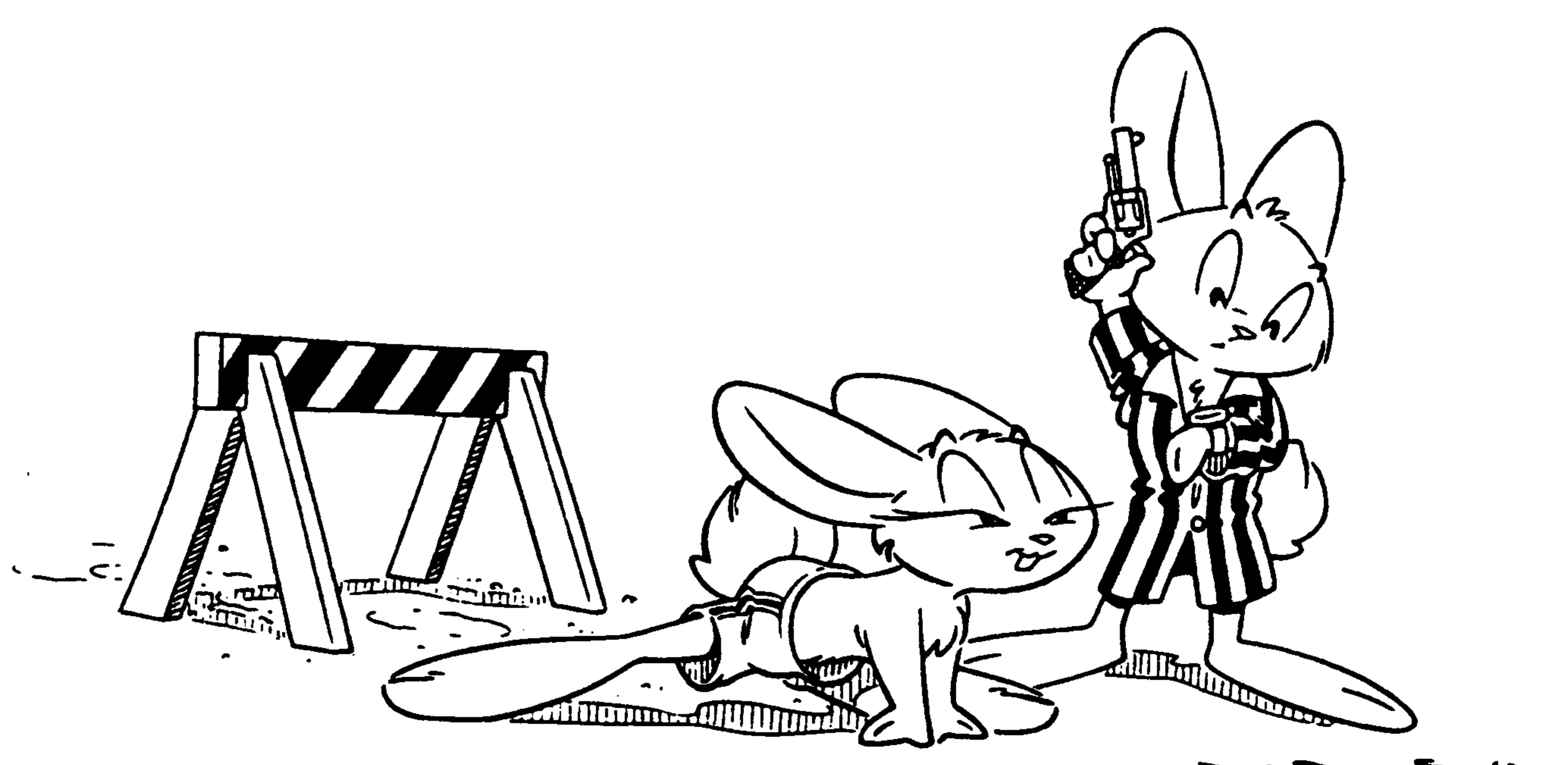
And now, our first issue awaits... enjoy!!

**In just two months!** (That's right; we'll be right back in just sixty days!) ...we return with mercenary adventure by newcomer Darko Macan, and an examination of fuzzy thinking by Will Fortier.

**Also on sale this month:**

**Wild Kingdom #3** (For those of you discerning readers who are 21 and over) New X-rated furry tales by Waverly Pierre, Ed Garcia, and Gus Norman. Adults only!!

**Felicia: Melari's Wish** Prop your door open! Better yet, read and enjoy this extra long graphic novel about the intrigues of a sorceress who is on a search for an ancient, magical heirloom. (But you already have this in your bag with this book, don't you?)



illo by Taral Wayne

WILL THAT  
BE ALL,  
MA'AM?

YES, DEAR. I'M JUST GOING TO  
READ YOUNG KASIM TO SLEEP.

I DON'T LIKE HEATHER,  
GRANDMA ... SHE WALKS  
FUNNY.

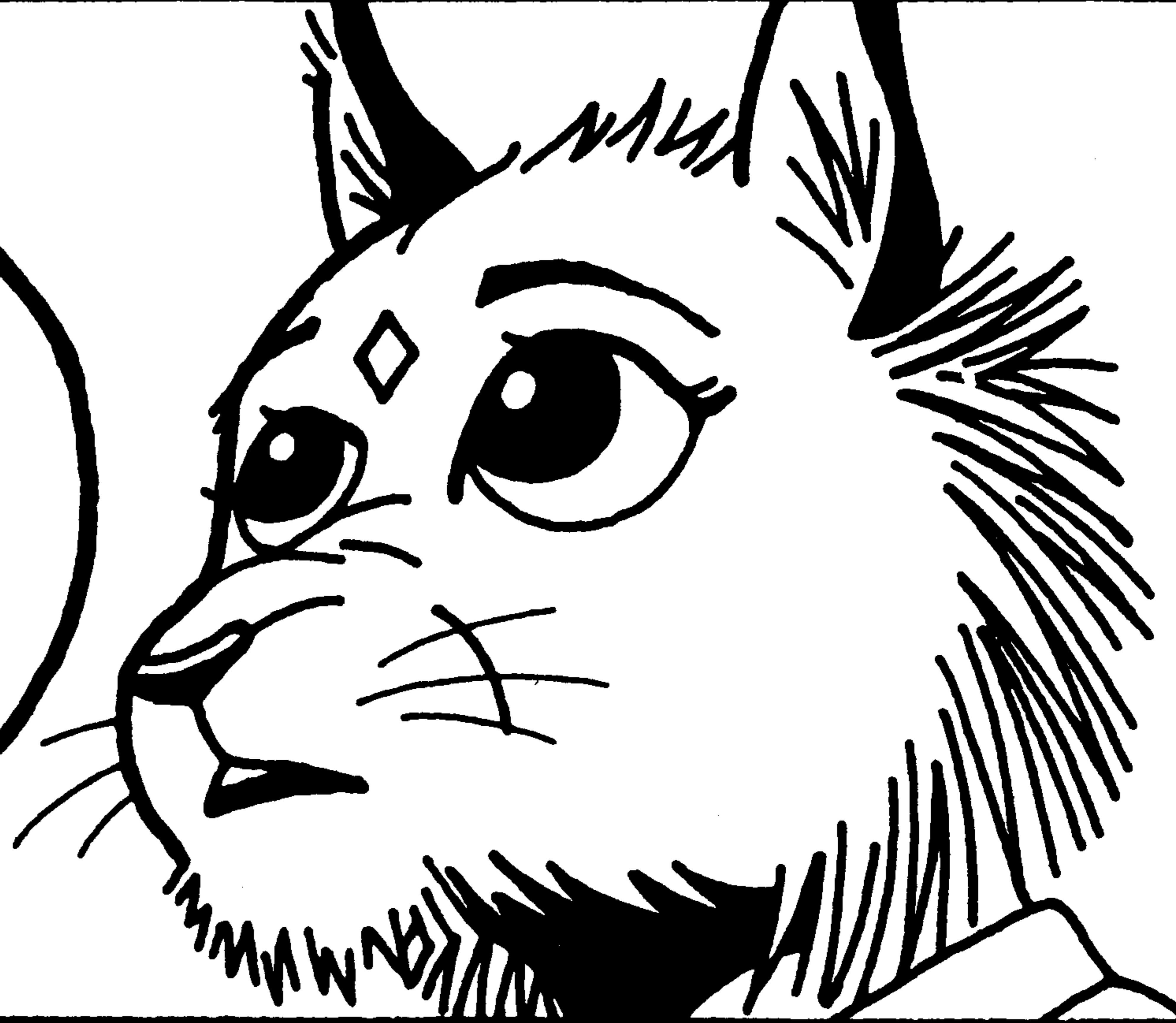
HMM, WAIT A FEW  
YEARS, KITTEN...

...SHE'LL

SEEM LESS  
"FUNNY."

HUH?

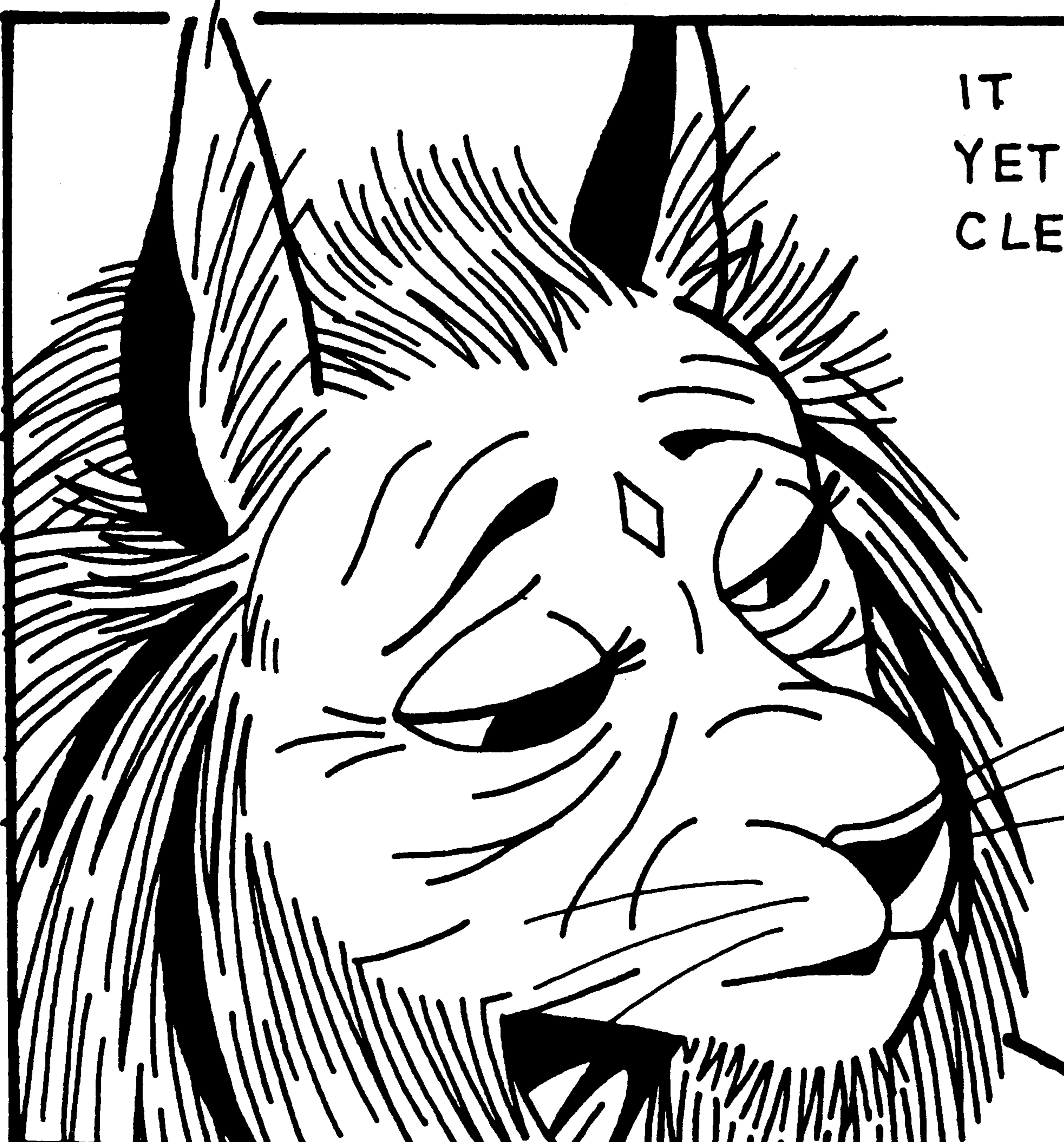
NEVERMIND,  
DEAR. WHICH  
BEDTIME STORY  
WOULD YOU  
LIKE ME TO  
READ?



GRANDPA SAID WE USED  
TO HAVE MICE AS  
SERVANTS. WHERE DID  
THEY GO?



I THINK  
YOU'RE OLD  
ENOUGH TO  
HEAR THE  
TRUTH.



IT HAPPENED SO LONG AGO,  
YET I REMEMBER IT ALL  
CLEARLY.  
  
MILO WAS MORE THAN A  
SERVANT; HE WAS AN  
ADVISOR ... A FRIEND. IT  
WAS HE WHO WITNESSED  
MY FATHER'S DISAPPEARANCE  
... AND THE MAGICAL  
BEING RESPONSIBLE!  
FEAR AND CONFUSION  
GRIPPED OUR KINGDOM...  
AS WEEKS, THEN  
MONTHS PASSED BY...

# Leandra

"SIN AND  
SALVATION"

BY JAY  
SHELL

A WHOLE YEAR... IT SEEMS LIKE  
A CENTURY. BUT I KNOW IN  
MY HEART THAT YOU'LL RETURN  
HOME SOMEDAY.

HM? WHAT  
DID YOU  
SAY?

IT'S BEEN A YEAR  
SINCE THE TERATON  
CAPTURED MY  
FATHER!

OH. YES.

WICKED BEAST! WHAT DOES IT  
WANT FROM US... A RANSOM?  
WHY WILL NO ONE ATTEMPT A  
RESCUE?

LEGEND SAYS THAT ONLY  
ROYALTY CAN DEFEAT  
SUCH A CREATURE.

THEN I GUESS  
IT'S UP TO ME.

PRINCESS, NO! I DIDN'T  
MEAN THAT YOU  
SHOULD GO! YOUR  
BROTHER...

"MY BROTHER AND HIS ARMY ARE  
STILL FIGHTING THE KYONS!  
AND MOTHER IS TOO SICK WITH  
WORRY TO GO ON A RESCUE  
MISSION!"

"INDEED! YOUR DISAPPEARANCE  
COULD KILL HER!"

THERE'S NO  
ONE ELSE!  
DESPERATE  
TIMES  
CALL FOR  
DESPERATE  
MEASURES.  
TRY TO  
UNDERSTAND.

=SIGH=

I DO.

STRANGE, HOW ANNIVERSARIES CAN COINCIDE. A HUNDRED-AND-ONE YEARS AGO, THE WAR BETWEEN OUR TWO NATIONS ENDED, AND MY CLAN WAS SUBJUGATED.



OH, MILO, THAT'S ANCIENT HISTORY! SURELY YOU'RE NOT STILL BITTER!

WE LYNCEANS HAVE BEEN COMPASSIONATE RULERS, HAVEN'T WE?

YES... BUT...



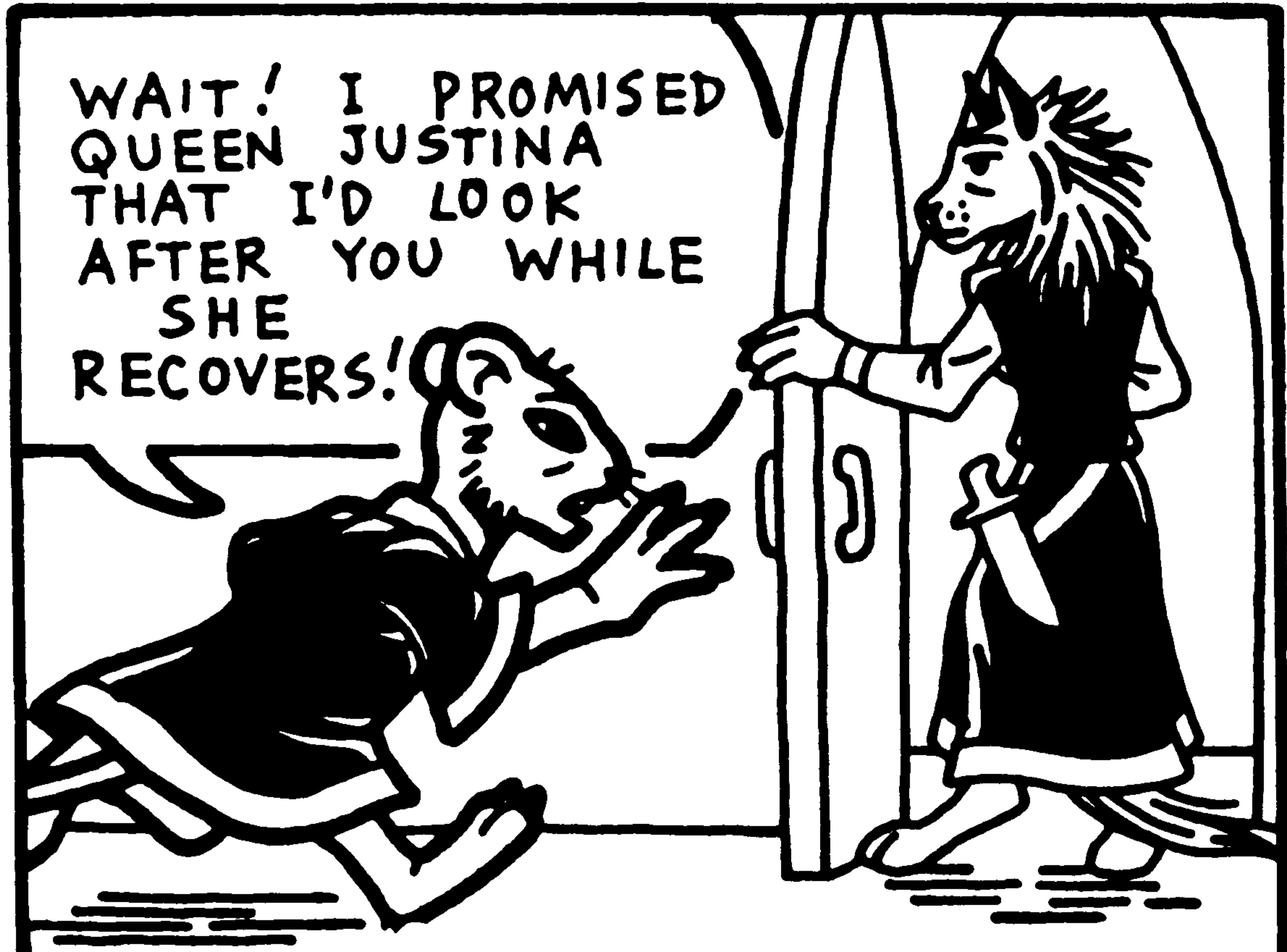
ENOUGH. WE'LL DISCUSS THIS LATER. I'D BETTER LEAVE NOW, BEFORE I LOSE MY NERVE!

AH! FATHER'S SILVER DAGGER... THE "CAT'S CLAW"!

WAIT! I PROMISED QUEEN JUSTINA THAT I'D LOOK AFTER YOU WHILE SHE RECOVERS!

THEN YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO COME ALONG, WON'T YOU?

YES, HIGHNESS.



C-COULDN'T WE WALK INSTEAD?

CALM DOWN. THESE ROYAL STRIDERS ARE TRAINED NOT TO EAT RODENTS.

HOW REASSURING.

HOURS PASSED

IT'S SO QUIET... DESOLATE.

YES. THAT MONSTER HAS PROBABLY DEVOURIED OR SCARED OFF EVERY LIVING CREATURE IN THIS FOREST!

KLAK

KLAK

WHICH REMINDS ME, JUST  
HOW MUCH DAGGER  
FIGHTING HAVE YOU  
ACTUALLY DONE?

WELL, I'VE HAD  
... A LESSON ...  
OR TWO.




I FEARED AS MUCH. AIM IS  
EVERYTHING, PRINCESS... YOU  
MUST  
TERATON'S  
PIERCE THE  
HEART WITH  
YOUR FIRST  
STRIKE!  
YOU WON'T  
GET A  
SECOND  
CHANCE!

BUT I'VE HEARD  
THAT PURE SILVER  
IS POISONOUS TO  
ANY EVIL  
BEING, NO  
MATTER  
WHERE  
IT IS  
STRUCK!



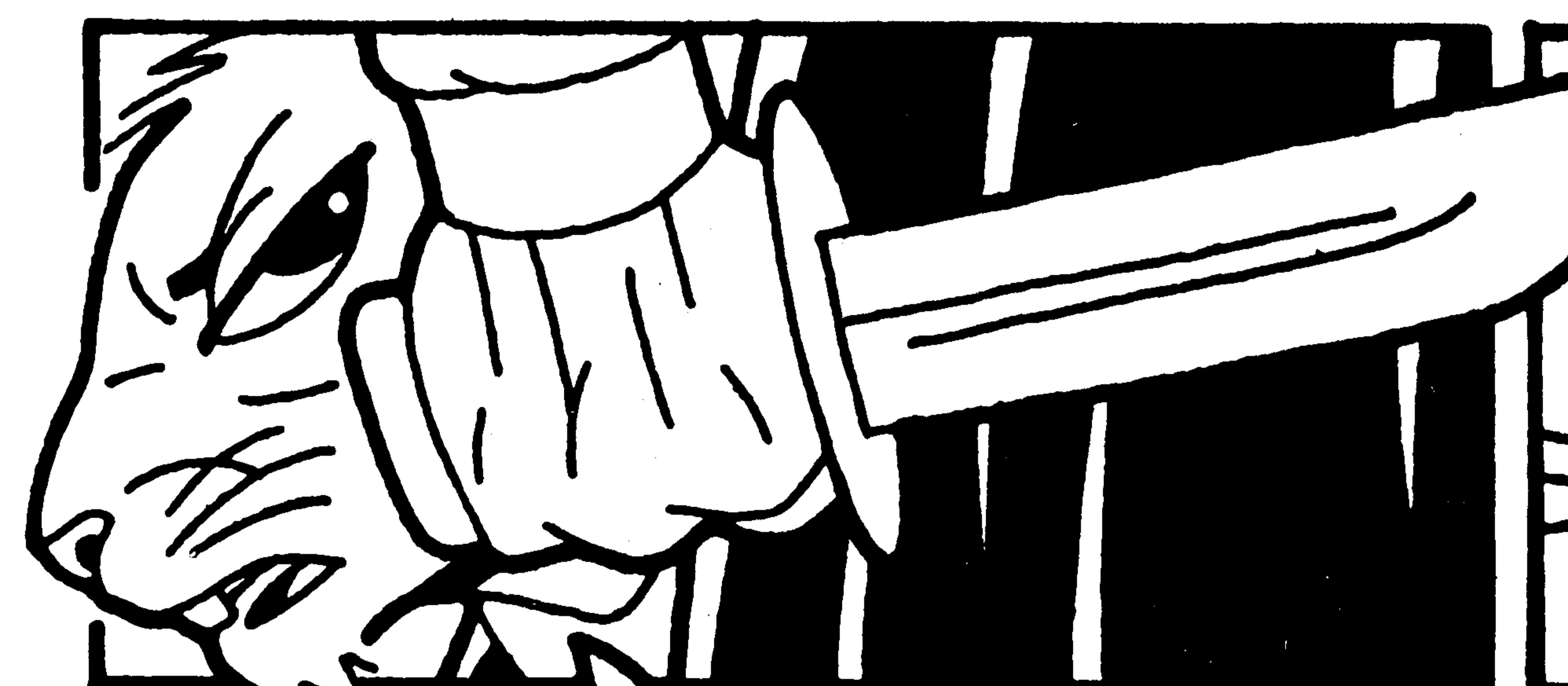
NONSENSE! I'VE SPENT A  
LIFETIME STUDYING THE  
SUPERNATURAL,  
SO -

=GASP=



GRRRR





REMEMBER WHAT  
I TOLD YOU.



RAUGH



RRR



NO.

OH, MILO,  
YOU WERE  
RIGHT!  
IT'S ONLY  
WOUNDED!



AND NOW IT'S WILD  
WITH PAIN! WE  
MUST FLEE!

NO! IT MIGHT  
HARM MY  
FATHER! WE  
MUST  
FOLLOW!



BUT, HIGHNESS, WHAT IF  
THE KING IS ALREADY  
DEAD?

DON'T SAY THAT! YOU  
DON'T KNOW FOR  
CERTAIN! LEAVE ME  
ALONE!

LEANDRA!


A WOUNDED BEAST IS  
UNPREDICTABLE!

FATHER!  
FATHER!

AT ANY  
MOMENT...

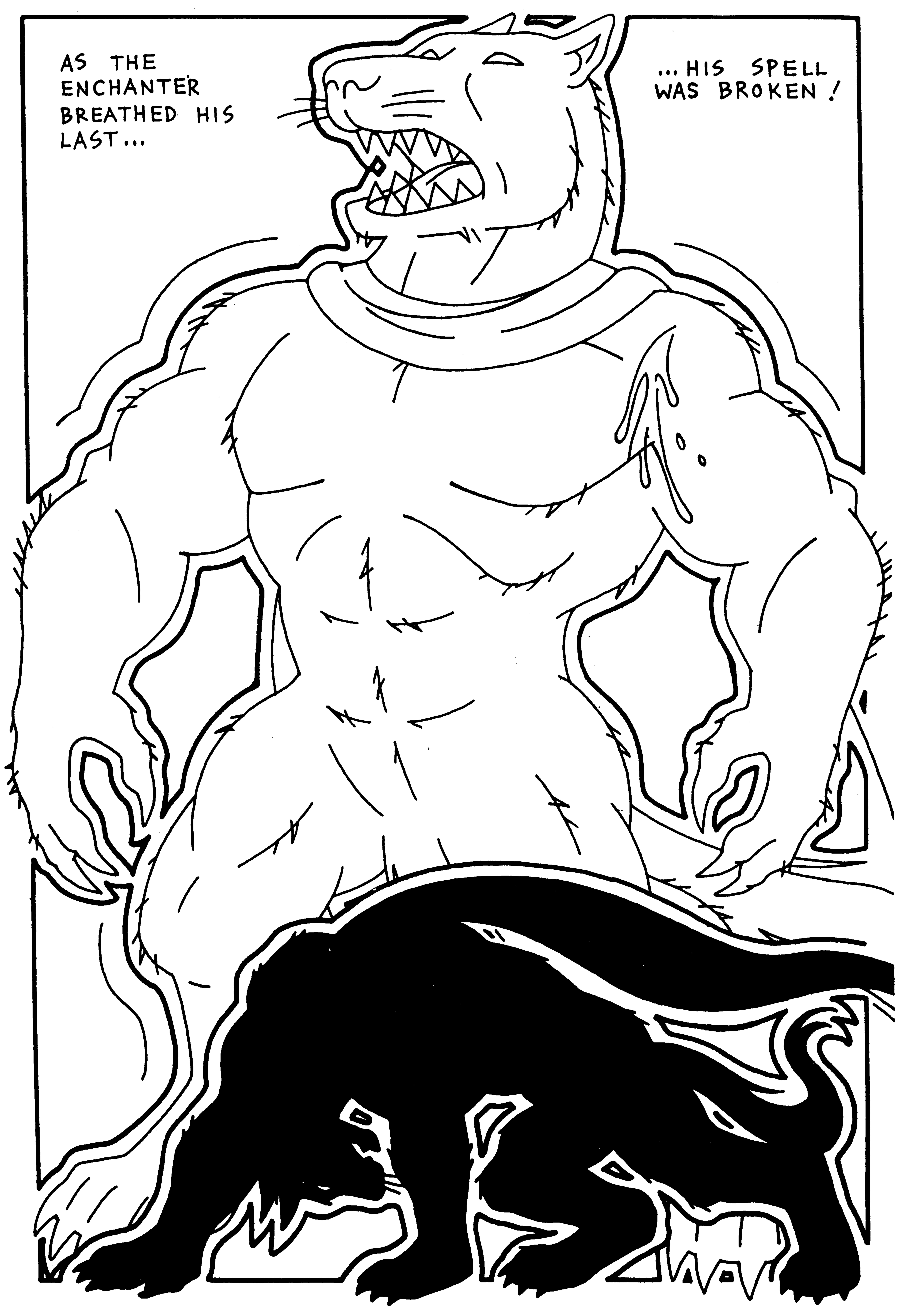
...IT MAY  
TURN AND...

...ATTACK!



AS THE  
ENCHANTER  
BREATHED HIS  
LAST...

...HIS SPELL  
WAS BROKEN!







WITHIN DAYS, THE NEWS OF KING KASIMIR'S RETURN SPREAD  
THROUGHOUT LYNCEA... NEVER WAS THERE A  
MORE JOYOUS  
HOMECOMING!



AND YET, MORE THAN A FEW SOULS WERE FILLED WITH APPREHENSION.



I WILL NOT PUNISH  
AN ENTIRE RACE  
FOR THE ACTIONS  
OF ONE BETRAYER.  
IN TRUTH, YOU  
HAVE SUFFERED  
LONG ENOUGH.

I NOW  
KNOW THE  
TORMENT  
OF EXILE AND  
CAPTIVITY.



THEREFORE, I HEREBY  
DECLARE THE LAND OF  
MURIDIA AND ALL  
ITS INHABITANTS  
TO BE FOREVER  
FREE!

WHO WOULD HAVE GUESSED  
THAT SUCH WEE FOLK  
COULD CHEER SO LOUDLY?

YES, A TIME  
TO CELEBRATE ...

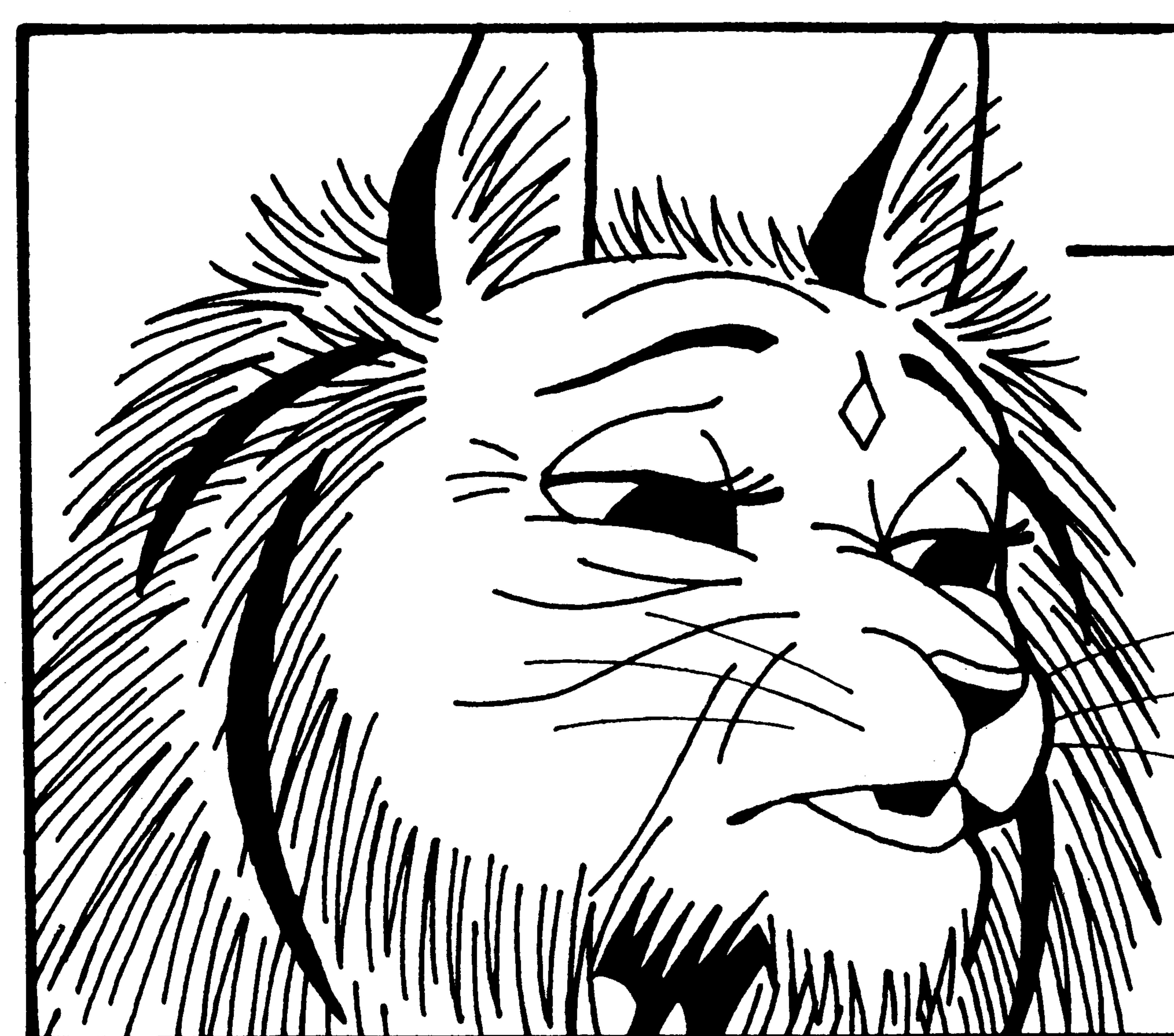
... AND A TIME  
TO REFLECT.



IT TOOK US YEARS TO ADJUST  
TO LIFE WITHOUT THE MICE,  
BUT WE MANAGED. AND  
NOW, MILO'S  
BIRTHDAY IS  
A MURIDIAN  
HOLIDAY.

JUST AS WE CELEBRATE  
YOUR BROTHER'S VICTORY  
OVER THE KYONS? TELL ME  
THAT STORY NEXT!





I - I WAS VERY ANGRY  
WITH HIM , FOR A VERY  
LONG TIME . BUT I  
GRADUALLY LEARNED TO  
... ACCEPT WHAT HE HAD  
DONE .



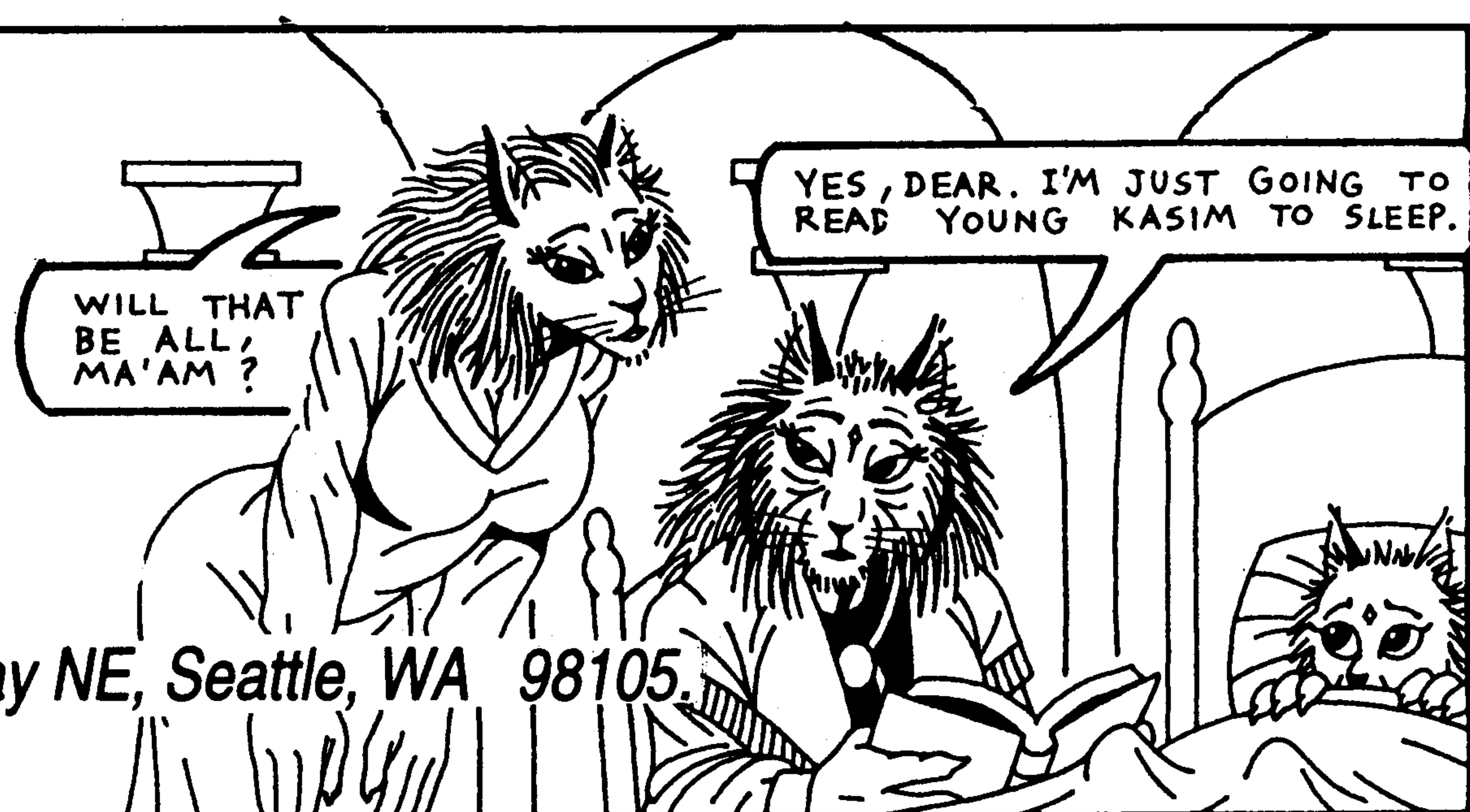
G'NIGHT, GRANDMA.  
GOODNIGHT, KASIM.



BUT CAN I EVER  
LEARN TO FORGIVE ?

# ANIMAL CRACKERS

Send all mail to ZU, MU Press, 5014-D Roosevelt Way NE, Seattle, WA 98105.  
Or send e-mail to [e.vick1@genie.geis.com](mailto:e.vick1@genie.geis.com)



Well, it's going to be a while before we actually receive any mail, but let's have a quick chat and get to know one another better. Have a Coke and kick up your feet.

You're holding the first issue of a brand new **ZU**. A couple of years ago we did a large sized one shot edition of **ZU** which featured the work of people like Tracy Kazaleh, Tom Staszer, and the late Deal Whitley. At that time, our schedules didn't allow for us doing anything more than a one-shot; anthologies take a forsaken length of time to prepare and make ready. Things have changed a little bit since then, however, and we are now getting underway with a new, slimmer, meaner version of **ZU**, and we will be out on a regular bi-monthly schedule. For how long? As long as we can manage.

Now, we've had inquiries about a few of our other books, and why they haven't been seen with any sort of regularity. Let's cover that briefly.

A lot of people have been asking us whatever became of **The Furkindred**. Well, it's still around; my duties as editor took a big chunk of time out of my schedule, and a few projects were interminably delayed. Hopefully, pressures have been eased some

what, so now I can concentrate on pushing ahead with the book. Look for some format changes when it reappears.

**Champion of Katara** was also delayed for the same reason, but I'm slowly easing back into completing my work on that story.

Some folks have also been wondering about the non-appearance of **Wild Kingdom** these many months. Well, this is one of our more demanding titles; it takes a while to get just the right stories of just the right quality. But I think readers will be happy to know that it will return not once, not twice, but a total of four times this year, so you'll get more than your share of sexy furries in 1995.

We've been making a great effort in recent months to get our books on a regular schedule of sorts. While we may have appeared fairly quiescent over the past few months, the truth is that we've been laboring to prepare a few new titles for the new year. Some are old favorites, some are new ongoing titles, and a few are collections and mini-series. But the reason for the long pause... and, for that matter, the long pause between issues of certain titles... is that we spend a lot of time and effort insuring the quality of the material we produce. Whether it's an adven-

ture book, a romance, a super-hero epic, an alternative comic, or just a romp, we want it to be the very best that it could possibly be.

Sometimes, the search for that quality can cause us to reject many stories, or to delay publication until problems can be ironed out. Sometimes we need to wait for the right talents to become available, not wanting to settle for what we consider to be second-best. Sometimes a book has to be seriously re-worked right from the beginning.

Of course, being an independent, sometimes our books suffer from low capital, and some of our creators have to work elsewhere to pick up the slack, and this causes them to push their MU work to the back burner for the duration. And, unfortunately, until they finish their work, we can't print the book.

You may notice that we don't print a large repertoire of titles, like most of our competitors. We prefer, at least for the present, to concentrate upon a small number of releases each month. This enables us to give each title the most complete attention that we can give to it, helping us to achieve a level of quality that we as publishers can be proud of, and that you as readers can be appreciative of.

At the moment, we've only a few books coming out on a regular schedule: ZU, Rhudiprrt, Wild Kingdom; soon to join the line-up will be Fangs of K'aath. Rhudi, however, is probably the most irregular of our regulars, and will be seen only on an issue-by-issue basis. And Mad Raccoons, which is

a summer annual.

The Furkindred will no longer be a regular book, but a regular series of mini-series. The next one to appear will be the five-issue Ferret's Wheel. And there is one Furkindred Special being worked on as well.

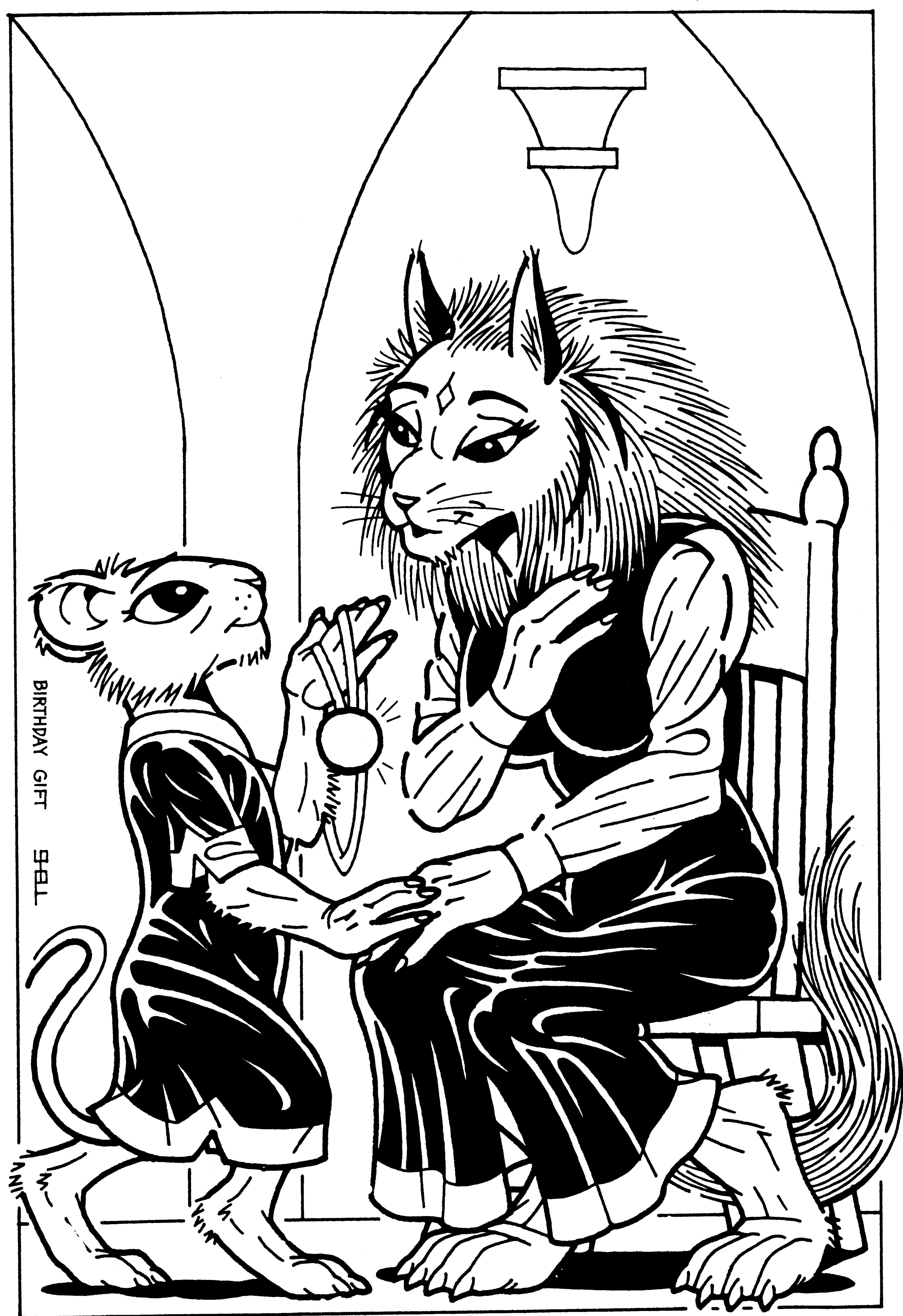
We have four mini-series in various stages of completion: Scareycat and Mousekanaut, Corus, Cyberkitties, and a Felicia mini.

Collections, at the moment, include Felicia: Melari's Wish (out now), Hugo! (next month!), and a possible Mad Raccoons collection.

And what's upcoming in ZU? Next issue begins a three-issue run by Croatian artist, Darko Macan, featuring his mercenary bear, Sergei; following that will be a serial by Adrian Kleinbergen concerning furry/racial inequality and airplanes. There will be stories and short pieces by talents such as Roy Pounds, Kjartan Arnorsson, Marc Schirmeister, Will Fortier, Eric Elliott, Mike McMurry, Paul Kidd, and Terry Loh.

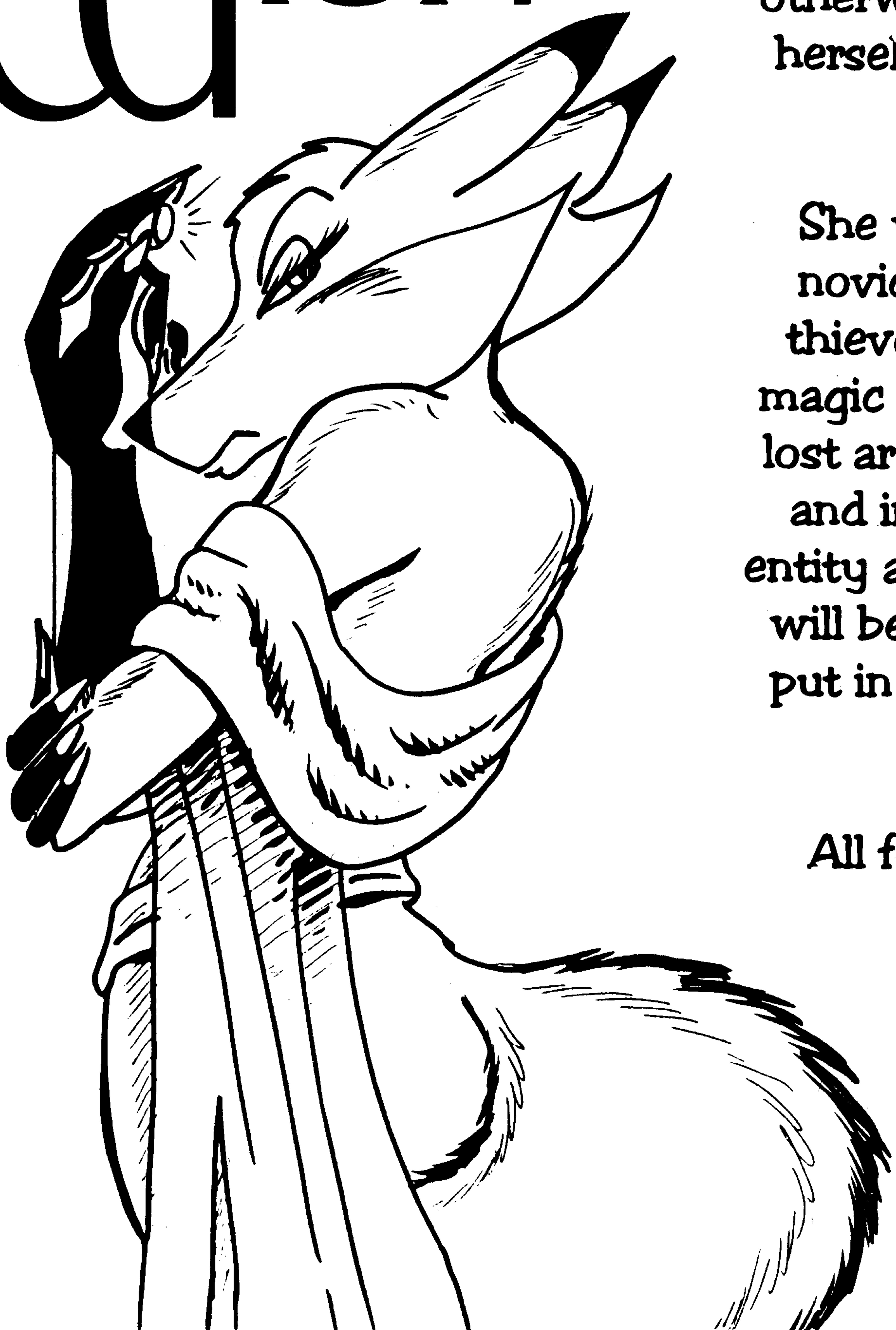
So how did we do with our opener? What are you most looking forward to seeing in this book? Whose work would you most like to see? Do you want to see longer stories or shorter? Do you have a better suggestion for the letter column? Write us; remember, this is your book as well as ours! We do listen to suggestions, and we try to oblige the consensus. But in order for your vote to count — write!





BIRTHDAY GIFT  
S&L

# Felicia Melari's Wish

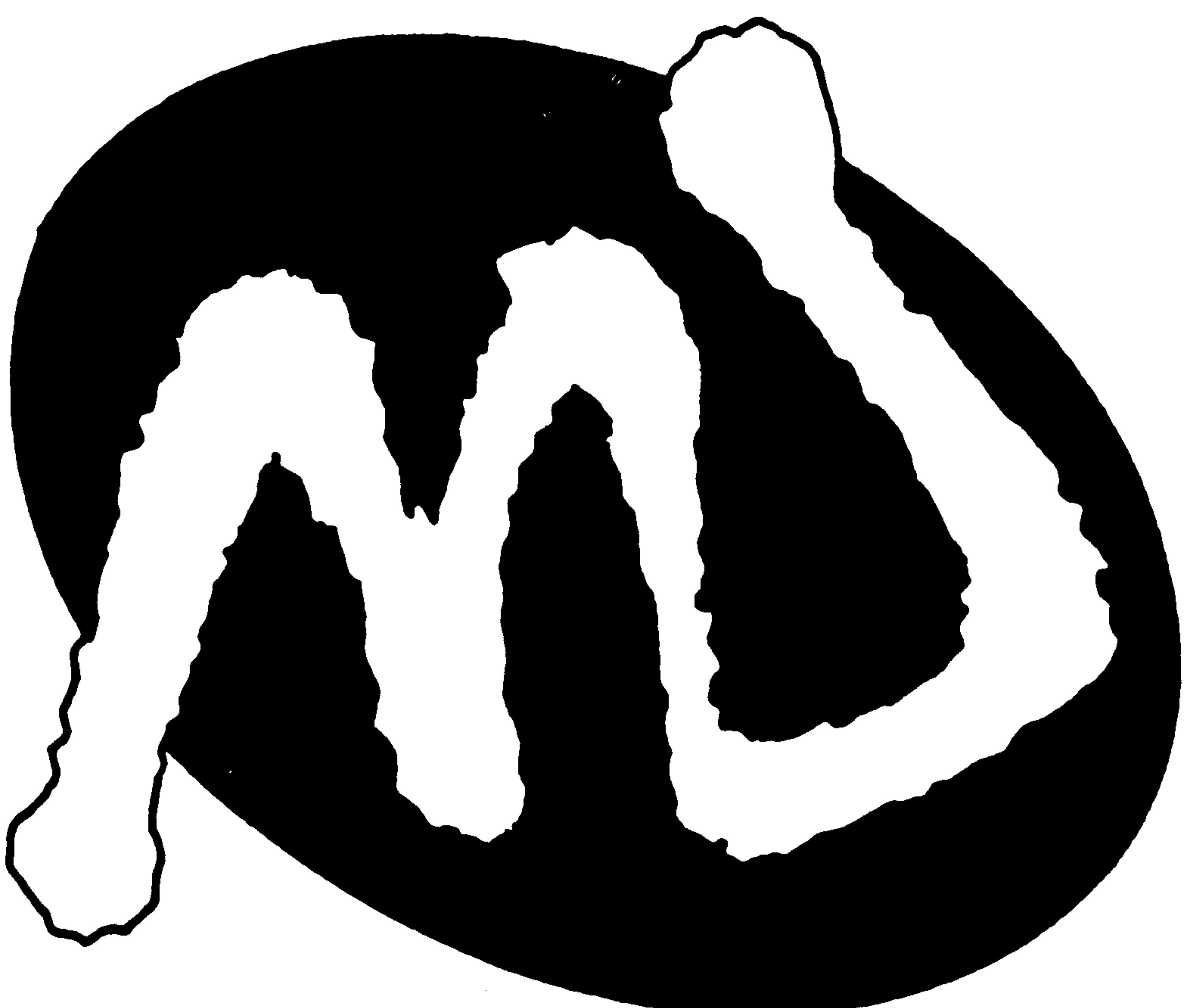


She was arguably the most powerful sorceress in the Free Lands. She had no ties to any Order, reputable or otherwise; her loyalties were only to herself, yet they hired her to find a lost magical artifact.

She was joined in her quest by a novice swordswoman, two sneak thieves, an innkeeper's wife, and a magic pony. Before she will find the lost artifact, she will encounter plots and intrigues, a ghost, a malicious entity and an unexpected burden; she will be tested, tempted, hunted, and put in danger of losing both her life and her eternal soul.

All for the sake of a single wish.

A bookshelf edition,  
now on sale.



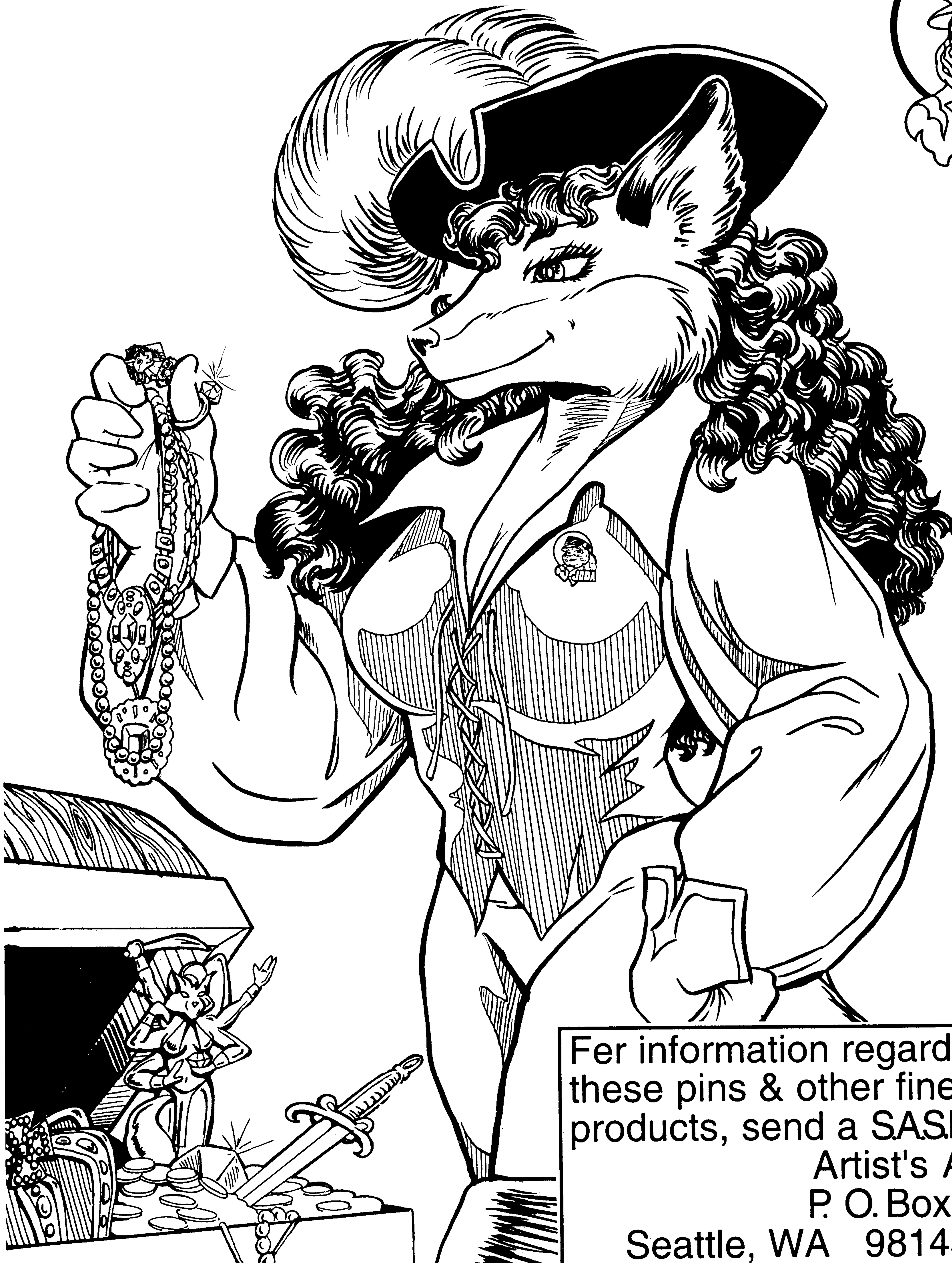
FELICIA: MELARI'S WISH \$14.95 (\$21.00 Can)

Add 75 cents for first item ordered, and 50 cents for each additional item for postage and shipping; make check or money order payable to MU Press; and send to 5014-D Roosevelt Way NE, Seattle, WA 98105.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
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City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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